

### Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. The specification has been amended. Claims 1-2, 10-11, and 20-21 have been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled. Reconsideration and re-examination of the application is respectfully requested.

1. The Examiner has objected to the specification, because the title is not descriptive. The title has been amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. In view of this amendment, removal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has rejected claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for omitting the structural cooperative relationship between the contact socket and the other structures of the claims. Claim 20 has been amended to identify the structural relationship between the contact socket and other structures of the claim. In view of this amendment, removal of the rejection of claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,397,247 issued to Aoki et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the connector comprises "substantially u-shaped retention clips arranged on the back surface of the housing that extend into the ribbon cable receiving region, the retention clips being arranged at a fixed spacing such that spaces are formed

between the retention clips for receiving contact elements, the retention clips being molded in a single piece with the housing.”

As shown in Figure 2 and discussed in column 4, lines 19-60 of Aoki, Aoki teaches a holder 30 and a holder guide 40 that hold a cable 50. The holder 30 has a rear end portion folded back over an upper surface of the holder 30 that provides a terminal receiving portion 32. The cable 50 has conductors 51 arranged parallel to one another such that projections 45 can be disposed between each of the conductors to interrupt the flow of water therebetween. Unlike the claimed invention that requires substantially u-shaped retention *clips* molded in a single piece with the housing, Aoki teaches a single terminal receiving portion 32. Additionally, the single terminal receiving portion 32 of the holder 30 is not integrally molded with the holder guide 40. The terminal receiving portion 32 also does not have spaces formed therein for receiving contact elements. Aoki, therefore, does not teach all of the elements of claim 1. Removal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Because the claim limitations of claim 9 are now contained in amended claim 1, claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to remove the claim limitations now incorporated in amended claim 1. Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1. As previously discussed, Aoki does not teach all of the claim limitations of claim 1 and therefore does not teach all of the claim limitations of claims 2-8. Because Aoki does not teach all of the claim limitations of claims 2-8, removal of the rejection of claims 2-8 is respectfully requested.

4. The Examiner has rejected claims 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,397,247 issued to Aoki et al.

Claim 10 has been amended to state that the connector comprises “substantially u-shaped retention clips arranged on the back surface of the housing that receive a portion of the ribbon cable, the retention clips being arranged at a fixed spacing such that spaces are formed between the retention clips for receiving contact elements, the spaces exposing the contact sections of the ribbon cable for contact with the contact elements.”

As previously discussed, unlike the claimed invention that requires substantially u-shaped retention *clips* molded in a single piece with the housing, Aoki teaches a single terminal receiving portion 32. Additionally, the single terminal receiving portion 32 of the holder 30 is not integrally molded with the holder guide 40. The terminal receiving portion 32 also does not have spaces formed therein that expose contact sections of the cable. Aoki, therefore, does not teach all of the elements of claim 10. Removal of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been amended to remove the claim limitations now incorporated in amended claim 10. Claims 11-19 depend from independent claim 10. As previously discussed, Aoki does not teach all of the claim limitations of claim 10 and therefore does not teach all of the claim limitations of claims 11-19. Because Aoki does not teach all of the claim limitations of claims 11-19, removal of the rejection of claims 11-19 is respectfully requested.

5. The Examiner has rejected claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,397,247 issued to Aoki et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0119353 A1 issued to Hotea.

Claim 21 has been amended to state that the connector arrangement comprises “substantially u-shaped retention clips formed on the back surface of the connector that receive a

portion of the ribbon cable, the retention clips being arranged at a fixed spacing such that spaces are formed between the retention clips that expose the contact sections, the first and second contact elements being receivable in the spaces, the retention clips being molded in a single piece with the connector.”

As previously discussed, unlike the claimed invention that requires substantially u-shaped retention *clips* molded in a single piece with the housing, Aoki teaches a single terminal receiving portion 32. Additionally, the single terminal receiving portion 32 of the holder 30 is not integrally molded with the holder guide 40. The terminal receiving portion 32 also does not have spaces formed therein that expose contact sections of the cable and receive first and second contact elements. As shown in Figure 1 of Hotea, Hotea teaches a connector 1 having a foil housing 2 and a socket housing 3 inserted into one another and locked by a lever 4. Hotea is silent as to the foil housing 2 having substantially u-shaped retention clips, as required by the claimed invention. The combination of Aoki in view of Hotea, therefore, does not teach all of the elements of claim 20. Removal of the rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been amended to remove the claim limitations now incorporated in amended claim 20. Claims 21-26 depend from independent claim 20. As previously discussed, the combination of Aoki in view of Hotea does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 20 and therefore does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claims 21-26. Because the combination of Aoki in view of Hotea does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claims 11-19, removal of the rejection of claims 21-26 is respectfully requested.

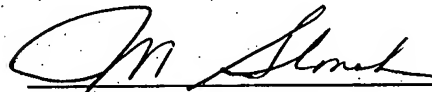
In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order

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Respectfully submitted,

Boemmel et al., Applicant(s)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Slonaker", is written over a horizontal line.

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